

**Foster Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 16, 2009  
Ben Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, 7:00 p.m.**

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*(Approved)*

**A. Call to Order/ Roll Call**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present (4):** Mike Wood, Chair; Scott Ulricksen, Vice Chair; Sisan Smallman, Secretary; Chris Iozzi.

**Excused (1):** Kathryn Zuromski.

**Vacant (2)**

**B. Approval of Minutes.**

Minutes from the meeting of February 17, 2009 were briefly discussed and approved.

**MOTION:** Scott made a motion to approve the minutes; motion seconded by Chris. Vote called; all those voting in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**C. Reports**

- **Budget.** Mike reported that the budget now includes a new line item of \$1500 for recycling education, as approved by the Town Council. This will support publication of the Trash Rat and other public education efforts. Mike also noted that the 2009-2010 budget was reduced by a total of 16.2% as a cost-cutting measure.
- **By-Laws.** Mike reported that he met with Ann-Marie Ignasher in early March to discuss the proposed By-Laws. She planned to adapt our proposed content to a format similar to that used by the Land Trust (and provided those reformatted By-Laws to us prior to the start of tonight's meeting). Sisan noted that she had eliminated the suggested change to determining a quorum based on the number of actual appointed members rather than the number of available seats. Sisan and/or Mike planned to discuss the matter with her further. All members were asked to review the draft in detail for discussion and possible vote next meeting.

***Post Meeting Addendum:*** Ann-Marie indicated that Robert's Rules of Order requires a quorum to be determined on the basis of the number of assigned membership seats rather than the number of those actually filled.

- **Environmental Inventory.** No new information available.
- **Planning Board (Liaison).** No new information available.
- **Land Trust (Liaison).** Chris was unable to attend last meeting, but is seeking minutes to report back, and to check agenda for April meeting.
- **DPW (Liaison).** No new information available.

**D. Old Business**

- **Bird + Bat House Workshop [Review].**

All members were pleased with how the workshop went. Knowing numbers of reserved kits allowed for proper preparation, and Mike was congratulated for his planning. Scott -- who gathered additional supplies, created more kits, provided power and hand tools, and led the construction work -- was commended for his efforts and know-how. He noted for the record that Tim Johnson donated the wood, refusing reimbursement.

Mike suggested that next year, the workshop should be scheduled for the end of February, with planning and preparation in December and January.

- **Land and Water Summit 3/21/09.**

No members are able to attend this year.

**E. Correspondence**

All current incoming correspondence was available for review by members.

**F. New Business**

- **Earth Day. April 22, 2009.** The FCC-sponsored clean-up is planned for the weekend of 4/25 and 4/26, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at DPW. We have gloves and trash bags left from last year. Mike will discuss an ad with the FHJ, requesting residents to notify Celeste of what roads they plan to clean up. Sisan and Mike will meet at Town Hall this week (3/18) to deliver supplies. Members were asked to be available to cover portions of the DPW hours, with a schedule to be developed at the next meeting.

- **Reducing Total Trash Disposal.**

In reviewing the RIRR report, Mike noted that Foster is still above the baseline for recycling (which earned the Town approximately \$13,000 last year), but is already at 71.5% of the yearly cap for total trash (overage last year cost approximately \$35,000). Mike and Chris discussed including information in an expanded Trash Rat detailing information on what can and cannot be recycled, and encouraging greater reduction/ reuse of trash. Mike suggested that part of the \$1500 public education budget might be well used for a mailer to Town residents.

- **Encouraging Preservation of Stone Walls.**

Mike led further discussion of the Smithfield ordinance and possible adaptation to Foster. All agreed on the purpose of encouraging preservation of stone walls, and protecting them from wholesale destruction. However, members expressed concern about some of the details, which could be seen as inadvertently infringing on property rights. Sisan volunteered to research additional example(s) and work with Mike on drafting another proposal.

- **Presentation(s) on Composting and Landscape Design.** Back-to-back presentations have been scheduled for 6:30 pm, April 21 at Ben Eddy. Kat has indicated she would get information to Mike for an ad in the FHJ by Friday, March 20 (April deadline).
- **Asian Long-Horned Beetle.** Kathryn indicated she would forward a picture and information to Sisan by the March 20 deadline for placement in the FHJ.
- **Other Issues.**  
Mike will secure reimbursement for approximately \$42 for Scott for materials purchased for the bird + bat house workshop.

**G. Future Agenda Items.**

- By-Laws.
- Stone walls.
- Old Home Days.

**H. Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** Sisan made a motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Scott. Vote called; all votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Sisan Smallman, Secretary*

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Foster Conservation Commission  
Monday, April 20, 2009  
7:00 p.m.**

**Ben Eddy Building  
Foster, RI**